



# AG UPDATE

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## ONIONS

Colorado growers now expect to produce 4.27 million cwt of summer storage onions this year, up 2 percent from the 4.18 million cwt produced in 2005. This year's harvested area of 9,700 acres is up 2 percent from 9,500 acres harvested last year. The 2006 crop average yield per acre is forecast at 440 cwt, unchanged from a year ago.

Summer storage onion production is forecast at 50.3 million hundredweight, up less than 1 percent from last year. Storage onion harvested area is forecast at 109,650 acres, up 3 percent from 2005. California production, at 13.2 million hundredweight, is 12 percent above 2005. Harvested area is expected to be 31,500 acres, up 13 percent from last year.

## MILK PRODUCTION/SEPT 2006

### COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado dairy herds produced 214 million pounds of milk during September 2006, up 15 million pounds from last September's production, but down 9 million pounds from August's production. The average number of cows, at 112,000, is unchanged from last month, but up from 106,000 cows from the previous year. The average milk per cow for the month of September in Colorado was 1,910 pounds per cow, down from 1,990 pounds per cow in August. Colorado is 1st in the nation in milk production per cow.

Milk production in the 23 major States during September totaled 13.3 billion pounds, up 2 percent from September 2005. August production, unrevised at 13.9 billion pounds, is up 1.6 percent from August 2005. Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,615 pounds for September, 16 pounds above September 2005. The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.25 million head, 79,000 head more than September 2005, but 6,000 head less than August 2006.

Milk production in the U.S. during the July - September quarter totaled 44.7 billion pounds, up 1.4 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the U.S. during the quarter was 9.12 million head, 57,000 head more than the same period last year.

### Colorado and U. S. Milk Production, September, 2005-06

| Item                              | Unit       | 2005   | 2006   |
|-----------------------------------|------------|--------|--------|
| <b>Colorado:</b>                  |            |        |        |
| Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....         | 1,000 head | 106    | 112    |
| Production per cow <u>2/</u> .... | Pounds     | 1,875  | 1,910  |
| Production <u>2/</u> .....        | Mil. lbs.  | 199    | 214    |
| <b>United States:</b>             |            |        |        |
| Milk Cows <u>1/</u> .....         | 1,000 head | 8,167  | 8,246  |
| Production per cow <u>2/</u> .... | Pounds     | 1,599  | 1,615  |
| Production <u>2/</u> .....        | Mil. lbs.  | 13,057 | 13,318 |

1/ Includes dry cows. Excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

### Onions for Fresh Market 2005-2006 Crops

| Crop                    | Area Harvested |          | Yield Per Acre |      | Production |        |
|-------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|------|------------|--------|
|                         | 2005           | for 2006 | 2005           | 2006 | 2005       | 2006   |
|                         | Acres          |          | Cwt.           |      | 1,000 Cwt. |        |
| Spring .....            | 35,300         | 34,500   | 318            | 386  | 11,243     | 13,330 |
| Summer:                 |                |          |                |      |            |        |
| Non-Storage             | 19,800         | 21,000   | 563            | 517  | 11,140     | 10,853 |
| Storage                 |                |          |                |      |            |        |
| CA <u>1/</u> .....      | 27,800         | 31,500   | 425            | 420  | 11,815     | 13,230 |
| CO .....                | 9,500          | 9,700    | 440            | 440  | 4,180      | 4,268  |
| ID .....                | 9,500          | 9,500    | 640            | 575  | 6,080      | 5,463  |
| MI .....                | 2,900          | 2,600    | 260            | 230  | 754        | 598    |
| NY .....                | 13,600         | 13,000   | 280            | 320  | 3,808      | 4,160  |
| OR-Malheur...           | 11,500         | 12,000   | 640            | 500  | 7,360      | 6,000  |
| OR-Other .....          | 7,800          | 7,400    | 360            | 420  | 2,808      | 3,108  |
| WA .....                | 19,500         | 20,000   | 600            | 600  | 11,700     | 12,000 |
| WI .....                | 2,000          | 2,000    | 330            | 310  | 660        | 620    |
| Oth Sts <u>2/</u> ..... | 1,920          | 1,950    | 453            | 429  | 869        | 837    |
| Subtotal .....          | 106,020        | 109,650  | 472            | 459  | 50,034     | 50,284 |
| Total Summer ...        | 125,820        | 130,650  | 486            | 468  | 61,174     | 61,137 |
| U.S. ....               | 161,129        | 165,150  | 449            | 451  | 72,417     | 74,467 |

1/ Primarily for dehydrated and other processing.

2/ OH and UT.

# CROP PRODUCTION/OCT. 1, 2006

## COLORADO HIGHLIGHTS

Colorado's corn for grain production is now forecast at 126.0 million bushels, down 10 percent from last year's crop of 140.6 million bushels and down 1 percent from the September 1 forecast. Average yield is forecast at 150.0 bushels per acre, up 2 bushels from last year but 2 bushels below the September 1 forecast. Area intended for grain was unchanged from September 1, at 840,000 acres. Sorghum for grain production for 2006 is now expected to total 3.5 million bushels, down 9 percent from the September 1 forecast but 2 percent above last year's crop. Average yield, at 29.0 bushels per acre, is 3 bushels below the September 1 forecast and 2 bushels below last year's results. The area expected to be harvested for grain was unchanged from September at 120,000 acres, but up 9 percent from 2005. Sugarbeet production is forecast at 823,000 tons, down 1 percent from the previous year's crop. Yields are expected to average 21.5 tons per acre compared with 24.3 tons per acre last year. The area for harvest is expected to total 38,300 acres, up from 34,300 acres harvested last year. The initial forecast of all sunflower production was placed at 106.4 million pounds, down 59 percent from the 2005 crop of 262.3 million pounds. The average expected yield of 1,145 pounds per acre is 134 pounds below last year. Area planted was reduced 40,000 acres from the June 1 forecast to 100,000 acres based on FSA administrative information and area for harvest is now expected to total 93,000 acres, down 29,000 acres from the June 1 forecast. Harvested acreage is down 55 percent from 205,000 acres harvested a year ago. Alfalfa hay production is forecast at 2.7 million tons, down 9 percent from last year. All other hay production is forecast at 1.4 million tons, up 23 percent from last year's production. Expected dry bean production, at 1.3 million hundredweight, is down 30 percent from last year. The average expected yield of 1,900 pounds per acre is 250 pounds above the 2005 yield but area for harvest is down 45,000 acres to 70,000 acres.

## UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Corn production is forecast at 10.9 billion bushels, down 2 percent from both last month and 2005. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 153.5 bushels per acre, down 1.2 bushels from September but 5.6 bushels higher than last year. If realized, the yield would be the second largest on record, behind 2004. Forecast yields are lower than September across the central Corn Belt as early harvest results revealed that the hot, dry summer conditions had reduced yield potential more than anticipated. However, producers in the northern and eastern Corn Belt reported better than expected yields due mainly to timely rainfall during the growing season. Expected yields across the northern and southern Great Plains are unchanged from last month. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States bringing total corn planted acres to 78.6 million acres, down 1 percent from June and 4 percent lower than 2005. Area harvested and to be harvested for grain, at 71.0 million acres, is down 1 percent from September and 5 percent below 2005.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.19 billion bushels, up 3 percent from the September forecast and up 4 percent from the 2005 crop. If realized, this would be the highest production on record. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 42.8 bushels per acre, up 1.0 bushel from September but down 0.2 bushel from last year's record high yield. Compared with last month, yield forecasts are unchanged or higher in all States except South Dakota. The States with the largest expected increase from September are Illinois and Virginia, both up 3.0 bushels from last month. Timely rains and cooler temperatures improved yield expectations in the central and northern Corn Belt. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States with soybean planted area now at 75.6 million acres, up 1 percent from June and up 5 percent from 2005. Expected area for harvest, at 74.5 million acres, is up 1 percent from September and 5 percent above 2005. Revised 2005 soybean acreage, yield, and production were published in the September 29, 2006 Grain Stocks report.

Sorghum production is forecast at 301 million bushels, down 1 percent from last month and down 24 percent from last year. Area for harvest as grain is forecast at 5.32 million acres, a slight increase from September but down 7 percent from last year. Based on administrative information, acreage updates were made in several States. Planted area was updated to 6.32 million acres, an increase of less than one percent from June but down 2 percent from 2005. Based on October 1 conditions, the sorghum yield forecast is 56.6 bushels per acre, down 0.7 bushel from September and down 12.1 bushels from last year. Yields are either decreasing or unchanged from September in all of the major sorghum producing States except Nebraska, which is up 1.0 bushel from last month. The yield in Kansas, the largest producing State, is expected to be 60.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from September but down 15.0 bushels from 2005. Producers in Texas, the second largest sorghum producing State, expect a yield of 48.0 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but down 12.0 bushels from last year. As of October 1, harvest had begun in all of the top 11 producing States, except for New Mexico. In these States, the sorghum crop was 60 percent mature, 5 points behind last year and 7 points behind the 5-year average. Harvest, at 38 percent complete, was ahead of last year's pace of 36 percent complete but behind the 5-year average of 40 percent. Harvest was complete in Louisiana and 93 percent complete in Arkansas. In Kansas, widespread but light precipitation received during the month of September slowed harvest slightly, as only 20 percent of the crop was harvested, 6 points behind the 5-year average. The rainfall in Kansas improved the crop condition slightly, but the condition of the crop was still well below last year with only 33 percent rated as good to excellent compared with 45 percent at the same time in 2005. The harvest in Texas, at 70 percent complete, was ahead of the 5-year average of 65 percent as harvest conditions during September were favorable.

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Acres, yield, and production, Colorado and United States, 2005-2006**

| Area and Crop                | Planted Acres |          | Harvested Acres |           | Unit | Yield Per Acre |           | Production  |            |
|------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------------|-----------|------|----------------|-----------|-------------|------------|
|                              | 2005          | 2006     | 2005            | 2006      |      | 2005           | 2006      | 2005        | 2006       |
|                              | 1,000 acres   |          | 1,000 acres     |           |      | Units per acre |           | 1,000 units |            |
| <b>Colorado:</b>             |               |          |                 |           |      |                |           |             |            |
| All Corn <u>1/</u> .....     | 1,100         | 1,000    | 950             | 840       | Bu.  | 148.0          | 150.0     | 140,600     | 126,000    |
| All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....  | 160           | 200      | 110             | 120       | Bu.  | 31.0           | 29.0      | 3,410       | 3,480      |
| All Wheat.....               | 2,570         | 2,170    | 2,219           | 1,919     | Bu.  | 24.4           | 21.6      | 54,035      | 41,515     |
| Winter Wheat.....            | 2,550         | 2,150    | 2,200           | 1,900     | Bu.  | 24.0           | 21.0      | 52,800      | 39,900     |
| Spring Wheat.....            | 20            | 20       | 19              | 19        | Bu.  | 65.0           | 85.0      | 1,235       | 1,615      |
| Oats.....                    | 75            | 85       | 15              | 10        | Bu.  | 75.0           | 70.0      | 1,125       | 700        |
| Barley.....                  | 60            | 47       | 59              | 42        | Bu.  | 130.0          | 115.0     | 7,670       | 4,830      |
| Proso Millet.....            | 290           | 290      | 275             | <u>4/</u> | Bu.  | 20.0           | <u>4/</u> | 5,500       | <u>4/</u>  |
| All Hay.....                 | ...           | ...      | 1,550           | 1,540     | Tons | 2.64           | 2.65      | 4,085       | 4,081      |
| Alfalfa Hay.....             | ...           | ...      | 800             | 770       | Tons | 3.70           | 3.50      | 2,960       | 2,695      |
| Other Hay.....               | ...           | ...      | 750             | 770       | Tons | 1.50           | 1.80      | 1,125       | 1,386      |
| Sugarbeets.....              | 36.4          | 43.6     | 34.3            | 38.3      | Tons | 24.3           | 21.5      | 833         | 823        |
| Dry edible beans.....        | 125           | 75       | 115             | 70        | Cwt. | 1,650          | 1,900     | 1,898       | 1,330      |
| Sunflowers, All.....         | 215           | 100      | 205             | 93        | Lbs. | 1,279          | 1,145     | 262,250     | 106,440    |
| Sunflowers, Oil.....         | 150           | 80       | 145             | 75        | Lbs. | 1,250          | <u>4/</u> | 181,250     | <u>4/</u>  |
| Sunflowers, Non-Oil          | 65            | 20       | 60              | 18        | Lbs. | 1,350          | <u>4/</u> | 81,000      | <u>4/</u>  |
| All potatoes.....            | 63.2          | 64.0     | 62.9            | 63.7      | Cwt. | 393            | <u>5/</u> | 24,748      | <u>5/</u>  |
| Summer potatoes.....         | 5.0           | 4.1      | 4.9             | 4.0       | Cwt. | 375            | 370       | 1,838       | 1,480      |
| Fall potatoes.....           | 58.2          | 59.9     | 58.0            | 59.7      | Cwt. | 395            | <u>5/</u> | 22,910      | <u>5/</u>  |
| Apples.....                  | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Lbs. | ...            | ...       | 31,000      | 16,000     |
| Peaches.....                 | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Tons | ...            | ...       | 12,000      | 11,000     |
| Pears.....                   | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Tons | ...            | ...       | 2.5         | 2.4        |
| <b>United States:</b>        |               |          |                 |           |      |                |           |             |            |
| All Corn <u>1/</u> .....     | 81,759.0      | 78,561.0 | 75,107.0        | 71,047.0  | Bu.  | 147.9          | 153.5     | 11,112,072  | 10,905,194 |
| All Sorghum <u>1/</u> .....  | 6,454.0       | 6,319.0  | 5,736.0         | 5,319.0   | Bu.  | 68.7           | 56.6      | 393,893     | 301,217    |
| All Wheat <u>2/</u> .....    | 57,229.0      | 57,334.0 | 50,119.0        | 46,810.0  | Bu.  | 42.0           | 38.7      | 2,104,690   | 1,812,036  |
| Winter Wheat.....            | 40,433.0      | 40,575.0 | 33,794.0        | 31,117.0  | Bu.  | 44.4           | 41.7      | 1,499,129   | 1,298,081  |
| Spring Wheat.....            | 14,036.0      | 14,899.0 | 13,609.0        | 13,878.0  | Bu.  | 37.1           | 33.2      | 504,456     | 460,480    |
| Oats.....                    | 4,246.0       | 4,168.0  | 1,823.0         | 1,576.0   | Bu.  | 63.0           | 59.5      | 114,878     | 93,764     |
| Barley.....                  | 3,875.0       | 3,452.0  | 3,269.0         | 2,951.0   | Bu.  | 64.8           | 61.0      | 211,896     | 180,051    |
| Rye.....                     | 1,433.0       | 1,396.0  | 279.0           | 274.0     | Bu.  | 27.0           | 26.3      | 7,537       | 7,193      |
| Proso Millet.....            | 565.0         | 575.0    | 515.0           | <u>4/</u> | Bu.  | 26.3           | <u>4/</u> | 13,545      | <u>4/</u>  |
| All Hay.....                 | ...           | ...      | 61,649.0        | 62,697.0  | Tons | 2.44           | 2.35      | 150,590     | 147,038    |
| Alfalfa Hay.....             | ...           | ...      | 22,389.0        | 22,407.0  | Tons | 3.38           | 3.33      | 75,771      | 74,527     |
| Other Hay.....               | ...           | ...      | 39,260.0        | 40,290.0  | Tons | 1.91           | 1.80      | 74,819      | 72,511     |
| Sugarbeets.....              | 1,299.8       | 1,362.8  | 1,242.9         | 1,343.6   | Tons | 22.2           | 24.5      | 27,537      | 32,928     |
| Dry edible beans.....        | 1,665.0       | 1,648.8  | 1,568.6         | 1,562.4   | Cwt. | 1,744          | 1,523     | 27,350      | 23,800     |
| Sunflowers, All.....         | 2,709.0       | 1,984.0  | 2,610.0         | 1,864.0   | Lbs. | 1,540          | 1,134     | 4,018,355   | 2,113,625  |
| Sunflowers, Oil.....         | 2,104.0       | 1,686.0  | 2,032.0         | 1,587.0   | Lbs. | 1,564          | <u>4/</u> | 3,177,635   | <u>4/</u>  |
| Sunflowers, Non-Oil          | 578.0         | 298.0    | 578.0           | 277.0     | Lbs. | 1,455          | <u>4/</u> | 840,720     | <u>4/</u>  |
| All potatoes <u>3/</u> ..... | 1,109.1       | 1,138.7  | 1,086.9         | 1,116.4   | Cwt. | 390            | <u>5/</u> | 423,926     | <u>5/</u>  |
| Summer potatoes.....         | 53.4          | 59.4     | 51.4            | 54.8      | Cwt. | 342            | 342       | 17,567      | 18,731     |
| Fall potatoes.....           | 967.7         | 990.5    | 949.0           | 974.4     | Cwt. | 403            | <u>5/</u> | 382,743     | <u>5/</u>  |
| Soybeans.....                | 72,032.0      | 75,565.0 | 71,251.0        | 74,505.0  | Bu.  | 43.0           | 42.8      | 3,063,237   | 3,188,576  |
| Apples.....                  | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Lbs. | ...            | ...       | 9,864.9     | 9,842.7    |
| Peaches.....                 | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Tons | ...            | ...       | 1,184.6     | 1,053.8    |
| Pears.....                   | ...           | ...      | ...             | ...       | Tons | ...            | ...       | 825.3       | 835.3      |

1/ Planted for all purposes: harvested for grain. 2/ Includes Durum Wheat. 3/ Includes Winter and Spring Crops. 4/ Jan. 2007  
5/ November 9, 2006.

*(Continued from page 2)*

The first sunflower production forecast for 2006 is 2.11 billion pounds, down 47 percent from 2005 but 3 percent above 2004. Area planted, at 1.98 million acres, is up 4 percent from the June estimate but down 27 percent from last year. Sunflower farmers expect to harvest 1.86 million acres, up 4 percent from June but down 29 percent from the 2005 acreage. The October yield forecast, at 1,134 pounds, is 406 pounds less than the 2005 yield. As of October 1, lower yields are expected in six of the seven major sunflower-producing States, with only Minnesota farmers expecting higher yields compared with last year. Conditions were hot and dry this summer across most of the Great Plains, resulting in reduced yield expectations compared with last year when Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, and South Dakota experienced record high yields. In North Dakota, the yield is forecast at 1,143 pounds per acre, down 443 pounds from the 2005 yield. As of October 1, harvest progress in Kansas and South Dakota was lagging behind last year's pace and the 5-year average, while harvest in Colorado and North Dakota was ahead of last year and equal to the 5-year average.

Production of alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures is forecast at 74.5 million tons, up 5 percent from the August forecast but down 2 percent from last year. Yields are expected to average 3.33 tons per acre, up 0.15 ton from August but down 0.05 ton from 2005. Harvested area is forecast at 22.4 million acres, unchanged from August but slightly above the previous year's acreage. Other Hay production is forecast at 72.5 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast but down 3 percent from 2005. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 1.80 tons, up 0.03 ton from the August forecast but down 0.11 ton from last year. Harvested area, at 40.3 million acres, is unchanged from August but up 3 percent from the previous year. Improved conditions from the late spring and early summer dryness contributed to yield increases in several States across the U.S. Compared with the previous forecast, growers in fourteen States are expecting higher yields, with Washington, Texas, Wisconsin, Colorado and Pennsylvania showing the largest increase, up 0.3 ton from August. Meanwhile, a cluster of States in the Ohio Valley and middle Atlantic Coast region are forecast to decrease from August. Virginia and Mississippi showed the largest decrease in yield from the previous forecast, both down 0.5 ton.

U.S. dry edible bean production is forecast at 23.8 million cwt for 2006, up 2 percent from the August forecast but 13 percent below last year. Harvested acreage is forecast at 1.56 million acres, 3 percent above the August forecast but less than 1 percent below last year. The average U.S. yield is forecast at 1,523 pounds per acre, a decrease of 11 pounds from the August forecast and 221 pounds below last year. Planted area is estimated at 1.65 million acres, an increase of 3 percent from earlier forecasts but a 1 percent decrease from 2005.

Sugarbeets production for 2006 is forecast at 32.9 million tons, 2 percent above the September forecast and 20 percent above last year's production. The yield is forecast at 24.5 tons per acre, up 0.4 ton from September and 2.3 tons above 2005. If realized, this would be the highest yield on record for the U.S. Growers expect to harvest 1.34 million acres, unchanged from last month but 8 percent above last year.

## **TURKEY HATCHERY/ SEPT 2006**

Turkey eggs in incubators on October 1, 2006, in the United States totaled 29.8 million, up 12 percent from October 1, 2005. Eggs in incubators were up 1 percent from the September 1, 2006 total of 29.5 million eggs. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 8 percent, West North Central up 7 percent, North and South Atlantic up 16 percent, and South Central and West up 28 percent.

The 23.2 million poult placed during September 2006 in the United States were up 2 percent from the number placed during the same month a year earlier. Placements were 7 percent below August 2006. Regional changes from the previous year were: East North Central up 9 percent, West North Central down 2 percent, North and South Atlantic up 5 percent, and South Central and West up 1 percent.

### **UPCOMING REPORTS**

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov>

- Oct. 20 - Cattle on Feed
- Oct. 20 - Cold Storage
- Oct. 20 - Livestock Slaughter
- Oct. 23 - Chickens and Eggs
- Oct. 31 - Agricultural Prices
- Nov. 9 - Crop Production
- Nov. 17 - Milk Production
- Nov. 17 - Cattle On Feed
- Nov. 24 - Livestock Slaughter

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